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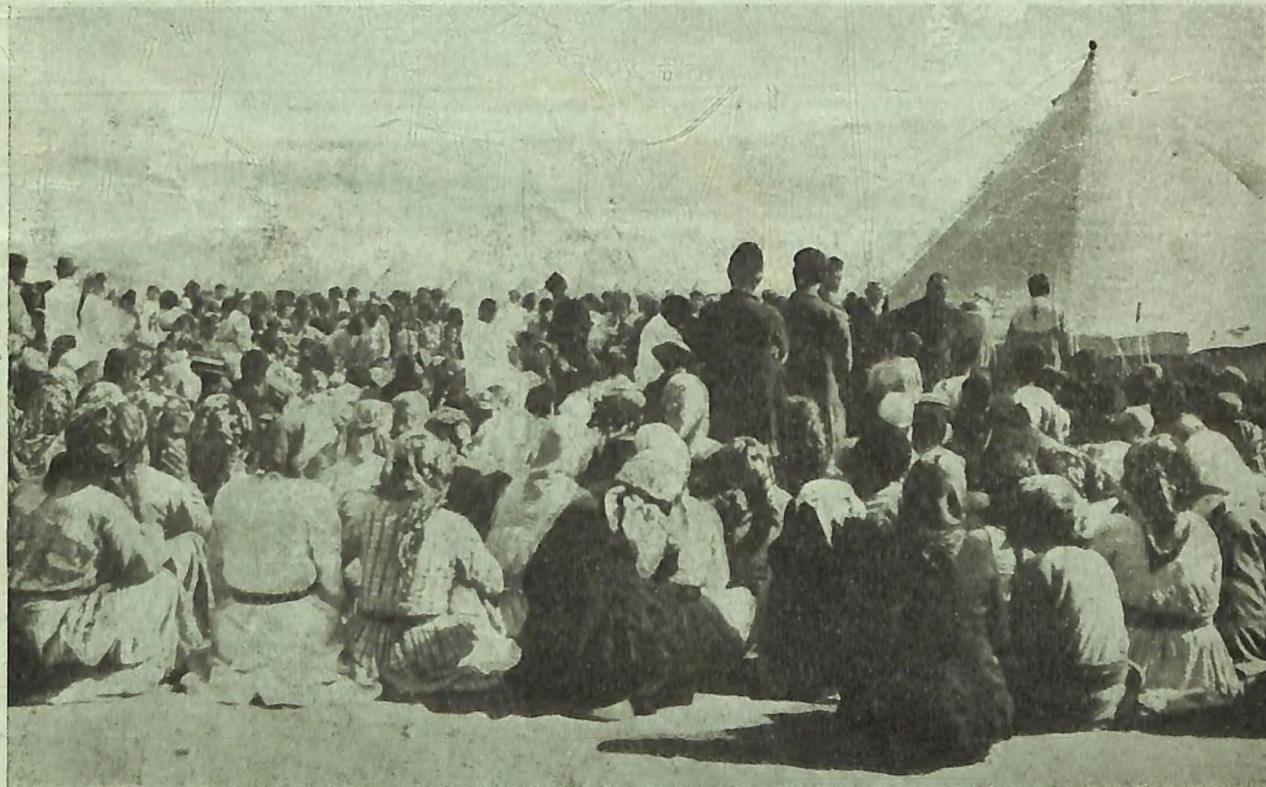
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Armenian Priest conducting a Service, Port Said Camp.

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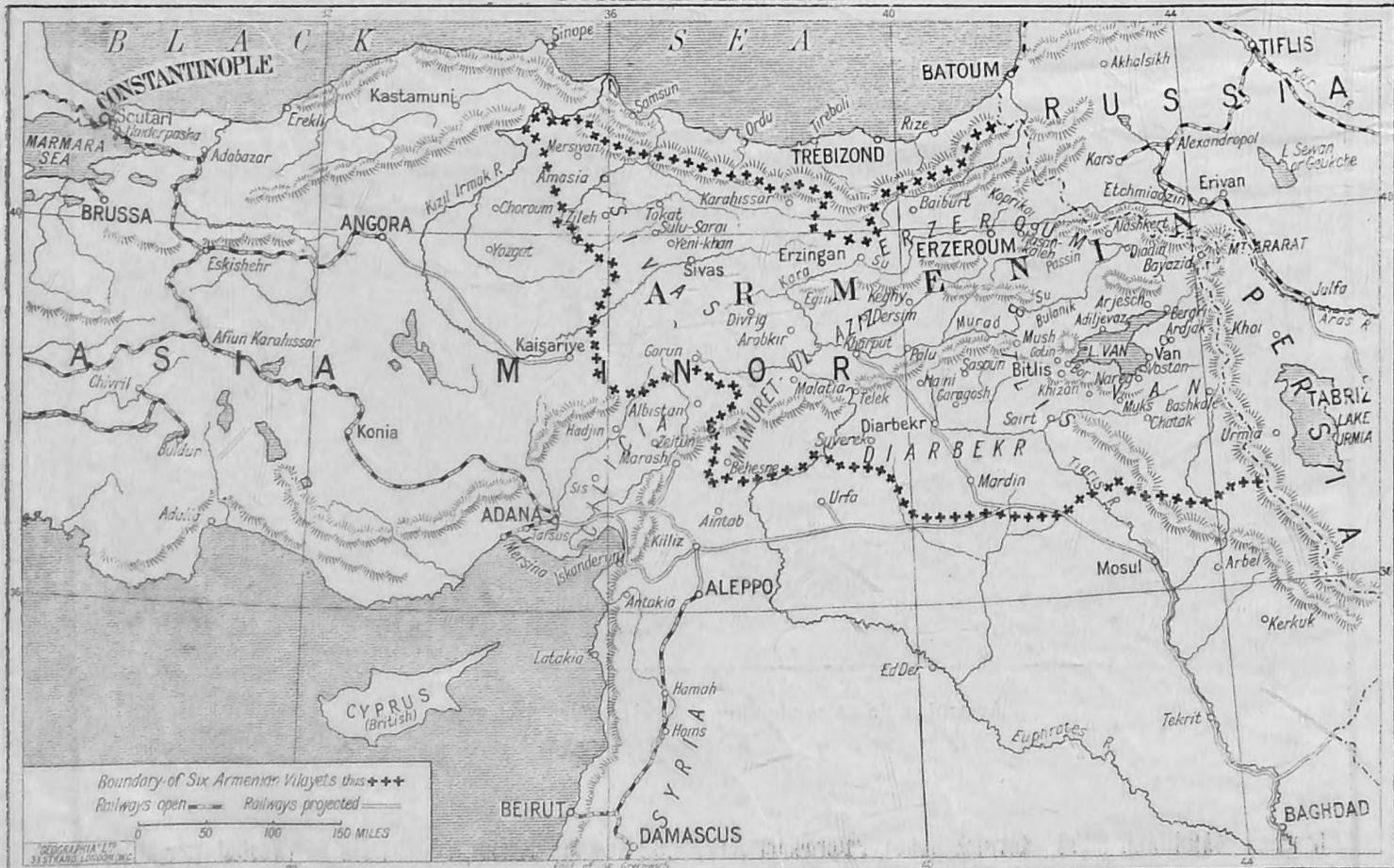
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TURKISH ARMENIA



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Friend of Armenia.

NEW SERIES, No. 65.]

JANUARY, 1917.

[1s. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

FOREWORD.



Bible House, Constantinople.

SINCE our last issue, news from Turkey itself has been somewhat sparse, and letters are only now arriving, through America, dated July and August. Our last Bulletin from America is dated September 12th, and that gives little recent news of the happenings in Turkey.

The condition of the refugees in the Caucasus has been considerably ameliorated by the various relief agencies there, and though sad, is by

no means hopeless. The appeals are chiefly for funds for food and clothing, and the building of orphanages to accommodate and educate the thousands of parentless little ones, and at the first Committee of the New Year we had the pleasure of voting £2,000 for these objects and for repatriation.

The saddest accounts reach us from the American Presbyterian Mission, Urumia, Persia, where about 37,000 refugees from the mountains and plains of Syria are homeless and in the direst need.

A report of the work among these refugees by the American Mission will be found elsewhere in our columns. We have recently been able to remit £1,500 for this work, and although these refugees are for the most part Syrians (or Nestorians) and not in the strict sense of the word Armenians, they have suffered in exactly the same way, and at the same hands as the Armenians, and the Committee have considered it a privilege to use the funds entrusted to them for the succour of these oppressed Christians. It would be impossible to differentiate between the grades of religion of the sufferers when distributing relief.

Mr. G. F. Gracey, of the American Commission for Armenian and Syrian Relief, has been home on a much-needed furlough, but started for Tiflis again on November 18th. Elsewhere will be found letters from him. The work of repatriating the women and children must now be delayed until the spring. We incline to think that the work upon which Mr. Gracey most sets his heart is the building of Orphanages in the district of Van, and the setting up of the men and women in trades and industrial work.

But homes must be re-built, and the towns made habitable before all else, and very large sums for this purpose will be needed.

From Port Said we are happy to report very satisfactory progress in the Industrial work, and a general improvement in the health of the refugees. Miss Cunningham writes with very great appreciation of the condensed milk which we have sent, and says what a pleasure it is to see

the little ones' cheeks getting rosier, and the look of gratitude on the faces of the delicate and invalid women when their share is given them. Gifts for providing extra comforts for the children and invalid women in the Camp will be greatly appreciated.

The handkerchief work began about February of this year, with a class of seven beginners. There are now several hundred women and girls very keen and enthusiastic to learn, and who are turning out excellent work. The rug-making is also on a very sound footing, and the rugs and handkerchiefs are having such good sales in Egypt that the demand is greater than the supply. The takings in the little "Friends of Armenia" shop in the Camp were a little under £200 for the month of October, and in one day over £25 was taken. The linen and thread for the handkerchief work, and the wool and rug canvas are all sent out by us, also canvas shoes, soap, raffia for baskets and trays, and many other things. The linen and thread bill is a big item every month, and we ask for help to continue this important work, for the knowledge of embroidery and rug and raffia work which is being gained by these refugees will be an immense asset in the future, and in the meantime they are adding to their means of supporting themselves in the Camp by their earnings, and are not entirely dependent on the Egyptian Government for maintenance.

For linen, thread, wool and canvas for rugs, condensed milk, canvas shoes, and workers' expenses, we have spent £406 since our last issue.

Our Balance Sheet for the year 1916, and full subscription lists from July 1st to December 30th, 1916, will be given in our next issue. Our receipts since the middle of August, when the last figures were given, amount to £4,547 for all purposes, including the payment of goods, and that the bulk of this has been already used will be seen by the following statement:—

Sent to the American Mission, Urumia, for refugees...	£1,500
Sent to Dr. Macallum, for Caucasus relief ...	2,000
Spent on necessities for Port Said, chiefly canvas,	
linen and thread ...	406
Loans to needy Armenians ...	89
On deposit at bank ...	300
	£4,295

Once more we would heartily thank our faithful supporters for their never failing interest and sympathy, and especially for their generous response to the appeal sent out to them in December, and for the splendid parcels of clothing so many friends have sent us. We ask for a continuance of their gifts to forward the work of the Missionaries, that they may not be hampered by want of funds in relieving the sufferings of these thousands of destitute people. The missionaries, in their turn, are facing many trials and discomfits, and separation from their families in England and America. Let us strengthen their hands.

B. HICKSON.

TURKEY BULLETIN.

American Board,
14, Beacon Street, Boston.
September 12th, 1916.

Information comes to the American Board through many and varied channels. Few direct communications arrive from the interior of Turkey, but many indirect messages are received. There is no reason to feel or believe that the missionaries at any point are in peril. In fact, we have been informed that special orders have been sent from Constantinople to the interior stations that all American missionaries be especially protected. We do not learn of any especially trying privations, even though no supplies from outside have been sent into Turkey for over two years. Unquestionably the missionaries are living without luxuries. They report themselves from all stations as well.

Miss Mary Riggs, who left Harpoot in November, has recently arrived from Beirut, where the rest of the Harpoot party still wait. She came by military road to Constantinople and home through Germany. Mr. Ranney, from Aintab, came with her to Constantinople, where he is helping in the treasurer's office. The Marsovan party, consisting of Dr. White, Dr. and Mrs. Mardin, Mr. and Mrs. Pye and Miss Morley, not being able to secure permission to return to Marsovan, came to this country. Mr. and Mrs. Getchell, Miss Willard, Miss Gage and a Swiss nurse, Miss Zbinden, have returned, by permission of the Government, to Marsovan, arriving there July 28th. They are living in their own houses at the College, though probably the military still hold the other buildings.

There is no change in the situation at the other interior stations. Mr. Birge is attempting to come home from Smyrna for the summer and is detained in Budapest for a few weeks. Mrs. Parmelee's death at Harpoot late in July was not unexpected, as she had been feeble for a long time.

Dr. Raynolds, Mr. and Mrs. Yarrow, and Mr. and Mrs. Maynard are now in Russia. Word has just come from Dr. Raynolds from Moscow that they were leaving there on August 15th for Tiflis, where they would be due in 70 hours. The men are planning to go to Van and Bitlis this autumn, while their families remain in Tiflis. Mr. Stapleton expects to return to Erzroom alone.

The Turkish authorities have not yet given permission



On the steps of the Mission School at Erzroom.

The picture shows Dr. and Mrs. Stapleton, three Russian officers of the first troops to arrive, two citizens of Erzroom, and a group of the women and children who were protected in the Stapleton house during the siege. This is one of the most recent photographs received from Turkey.

sailed upon the 7th for Cairo, Egypt, to aid in the work for Armenian refugees and to be ready to move on when the door opens. Mr. Goodsell, who has not been able to get back to Aintab, sailed upon the 6th instant for temporary work among Turkish prisoners in Russia under the International Committee of the Y.M.C.A.

Dr. Clarke at Sofia, Bulgaria, died on July 2nd after a long period of illness. He was the oldest in service of any missionary of the Board. Mr. and Mrs. Baird of Samokov have been delayed in starting upon their furlough owing to the demand of the Government for a birth certificate for themselves and Winifred. Germany has announced that no one is to be permitted to enter or leave

to Dr. Andrus to return to Mardin from Constantinople. A letter from Miss Graf from Mardin, written in June, tells of the endeavour of the United States Consul at Aleppo to remove the entire station to Aleppo. For this purpose a man from the Consulate was sent to Mardin. Owing to Mr. Andrus's then feeble health and the exigencies of the work in Mardin the four missionaries there, Mrs. and Miss Dewey, Mrs. Andrus and Miss Graf, declined to go. Miss Graf, in giving the reason for this decision, writes, "We have a good proportion of our helpers and our helpers' widows with us. There are Protestants here from Marsovan, Harpoot, Bitlis, Erzroom, Adana and other places, and about thirty little children from all parts of the country. There are about 600 Protestants from our own field who have lost everything. The Mardin schools have more pupils than ever. We trust no rash move will be made to abandon the work here. We have been kept in safety and peace for nearly two years of this fearful war, and please God we would like to stay by the stuff." Mrs. Andrus passed away August 25th, Dr. Andrus being still at Constantinople.

Miss North has gone to Konia to assist Dr. Post in relief work. President MacLachlan, of the International College at Smyrna, reports the closing of one of the most successful years the college has ever known. Twenty-six Moslem students have been in attendance during the year, with over seven times that number of students of other races.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy are just sailing for Salonika to assist in the rapidly developing work there. Miss Kinney and Mrs. Sewny

Germany except for very special reasons. The only way to and from Turkey is through Germany.

Ambassador Abram I. Elkus sailed upon August 17th for Constantinople, via Germany. He has made a favourable impression upon those who met him. He senses the situation and will, we believe, be an able and sympathetic protector of American interests in Turkey. The situation among the refugees in Northern Syria and Arabia is terrible beyond power of words to describe. The Consul at Aleppo states that no reports have been exaggerated. Our Government has made a vigorous protest against seizure of American property at Marsovan and elsewhere.

Mr. Gracey reports from Van that only three or four of the mission buildings are standing intact. The Russian officials are cordial and aid materially in caring for the returned Armenian refugees. The American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief are providing funds to care for the Armenian refugees who fled to Russia and Persia. The treasurer at Constantinople reports aid distributed in forty-one places in Turkey. These include all of the stations where missionaries now are. There are some most sympathetic and devoted German women who are doing excellent relief work among the refugees in Northern Syria.

We have recently heard directly or indirectly from nearly all of the stations from the interior of Turkey. The situation at Talas remains the same as before, with the missionaries dwelling in safety in their homes while the Government holds the school buildings and hospital. At Salonika the missionaries are calling for reinforcements. Miss Davis at Monastir was better, and the work was undisturbed by war. At Samokov, Philippopolis and Sofia, war conditions put confining restrictions upon the movements of the missionaries. Throughout the entire war area in the Balkans and in Turkey the cost of living has greatly increased. The State Department in Washington is undertaking to forward money for Armenians in this country to their friends in Turkey, wherever they can be reached through the consular offices, and in sums not less than \$50 or more than \$500.

I advise that all who are interested in these Turkish questions read the *Missionary Herald* each month.

JAMES L. BARTON.

In every issue for nearly a year and a half the *Missionary Herald*, organ of the American Board of Missions, Boston, has referred to the Armenian atrocities. It has printed reports, received from one source and another, that have set forth the ghastly story with much detail. Yet but a fraction of the material that has come to hand has been used. It was felt that much of it was too harrowing; that our readers would protest against the overwhelming flood of it; that they might even question whether the American Board was not getting hysterical upon the subject.

That the case has not been overstated, and that the suffering, destitution, and need of the Armenian remnant have not been pictured too strongly or with an excessive plea for relief, appears in the following cable despatch from Lord Bryce, received at the Board Rooms, October 4:

All civilised nations able to assist Armenians today should know that the need is still extremely urgent. Several hundred thousand exiles who survived horrors of deportation are now perishing of exposure and star-

vation in the Arabian desert. Latest reports from neutral eye-witnesses describe terrible conditions: sick people throwing themselves into graves and begging grave-diggers to bury them; women going mad, eating grass and even carrion; parents putting children out of misery, digging their own graves and awaiting death. The future of the Armenian nation depends on saving the refugees in Russia, but this requires world-wide assistance for feeding, clothes, housing, and for repatriation.

It is an unprecedented situation when the saving of an ancient and sturdy race hangs on the generosity of a nation on the other side of the world.

"From Sivas and Harpoot but little is heard. Miss Graffam and Miss Fowle are holding on there. Their letters hint that they have little to do. Apparently the orphans are held; possibly the girls' school keeps some of its pupils, but I think not. I had a word last week that seemed to indicate that many supposed to have been lost or killed will give account of themselves when things clear up.

"From Tarsus and Adana all are well. The government is making a fresh demand for the girls' school building, also for the buildings at Oorfa, which seems to imply that the latter had been given back. An occasional word comes from Aintab and Marash. No school work seems to be attempted at Aintab. Orphanages, however, hold on in both Aintab and Marash. Miss Vaughan writes cheerfully from Hadjin, where her school work has not been interfered with.

"Talas sent a telegram showing schools closed, buildings occupied by government; demands for taxes renewed. Letters and telegrams from Beirut denote closed schools there.

"Dr. Case is the only licensed physician in the Constantinople circle, our British medical friends being debarred from practice. He is doing valuable work in the relief department at Scutari. Miss Sherman, who spent last year in Bulgaria, has been invited to join Miss Towner, at Adana, for the next school year. She may find it difficult to get here from Bulgaria. We hear from Monastir, but get nothing from Salonica."

AMERICAN BOARD MEN IN ARMENIAN RELIEF WORK—AN APPRECIATION.

In exactly two months, the committee, with perfect success, and complete peace of conscience, finished the work they had undertaken in Van. During these two months, while working together with them, we were able to understand the ability, the speed, and the thoroughness the Western man puts into his work. But the endurance they exhibited during these two months, unwearyed amidst the noise and tumult raised by hundreds of refugees, is above all praise. We have not words strong enough to describe Dr. F. W. Macallum, who knows and loves the Armenians so well. One must see him at work to realise fully what a faultless and indefatigable worker he is.

During the whole course of the time, standing up with the notebook in which the names of the refugees were written in his hand, he directed all parts of the work. But Mr. George F. Gracey, that noble fellow-citizen of James Bryce, entertains the same love, the same sincerity towards the suffering Armenians as his great fellow-countryman. He put forth every possible effort to

relieve their pain; he even wept at the sight of their misery. I cannot forget the following incident:—

From the Akhta District fifty to sixty men were being taken away to work on the Sari Kamish line. The sight was almost like that of a procession of men condemned to death. Women were raising a great tumult of noise and weeping after the men, and all our efforts to quiet them were in vain. A woman from Moush was weeping with a loud voice, and amidst her sobs was saying, "Of seven men among ten women only one was left, and now they are taking him away from us; how can I keep from weeping?" And I saw Mr. Gracey wiping his tear-filled eyes, and all that night he could not sleep.

In conclusion we add the following: We desire always to have with us these noble, large-hearted Americans, not in their present capacity as distributors of relief, when painful features are not lacking in our life, but we hope they will soon be in a position to resume their

Many who take up the book will read the last chapter first, for that is called "Reminiscences." If they do not read this section first they will wonder at the modesty which made Dr. Greene declare, when asked to write a book on missions in Turkey, that he had no special fitness for such a work! His fitness is abundantly proved on every page and his vivid personality is strongly in evidence.

Dr. Greene has given first a general survey of Turkey, which is a marvel of condensation in its description of the country and of the Turks, Greeks, Armenians, Jews, Bulgarians, Albanians, Syrians, Egyptians and Arabs who live in it. Then he comes straight to the question of the extent of the Armenian catastrophe and to the problem of the Armenians and the Young Turks. When Dr. Greene went back to Turkey from furlough, during the massacres of 1895, every one was asking, "Why do the Turks rob and kill the Armenians?" The answer is still to seek; but Dr. Greene throws most



Little Handkerchief Workers, Port Said Refugee Camp.

former work of guiding us to Western culture of which we have such great need; and I trust the Armenian people will render to these kind benefactors the honour of which they are worthy.—Translated from the Armenian daily paper *Mshag*, Tiflis, Russia.

THE BOOKSHELF.

Leavening the Levant. By Joseph K. Greene, D.D. Boston: The Pilgrim Press. Pp. 353. Price 75., post free, from *Friend of Armenia*.

Probably no one but Dr. Greene could have written a book showing such an intimate knowledge of Turkey and of the forces which have been at work upon its leavening. Not only has he lived fifty-one years in that country, but he has been a friend and an influence in the lives of leaders of the various races; he speaks the vernacular; he has seen the awakening of new ambitions and of the desire for knowledge—the working of the leaven—and he has lived through and seen at first hand a number of crises in Turkey's history.

illuminating light on the matter. His chapter on this subject—in fact his whole book—ought to be on the desk of every news editor who has to interpret as best he may statements growing out of ignorance or half knowledge which are sent to the press by correspondents and reporters nowadays.

The section dealing with the American missions in Turkey is also of vital interest, touching as it does upon the pioneers like Cyrus Hamlin, Elias Riggs, H. G. O. Dwight, and others; upon the treasurer of the Turkey missions, through whose hands millions and millions of dollars have passed, and whose career is a romance in itself; upon the literary and medical work which the ninety-five years of the missions' work has developed; and upon the wonderful story of the colleges, seminaries, and high schools which the Americans have established.

A number of maps and photographs which have an historic as well as present-day interest are generously interspersed through the pages.

We have not room even to allude to the sketches or characterisations of missionaries and friends of Dr. Greene during his half-century in Turkey, or to tell any of his witty or moving anecdotes, but we hope every one who sees this notice will buy and read a copy of the book. Then we know it will be recommended to all the readers' friends, and not only will their knowledge be increased, but Dr. Greene will be able to increase the fund for Armenian relief, to which all the profits arising from the sale of the book are given.

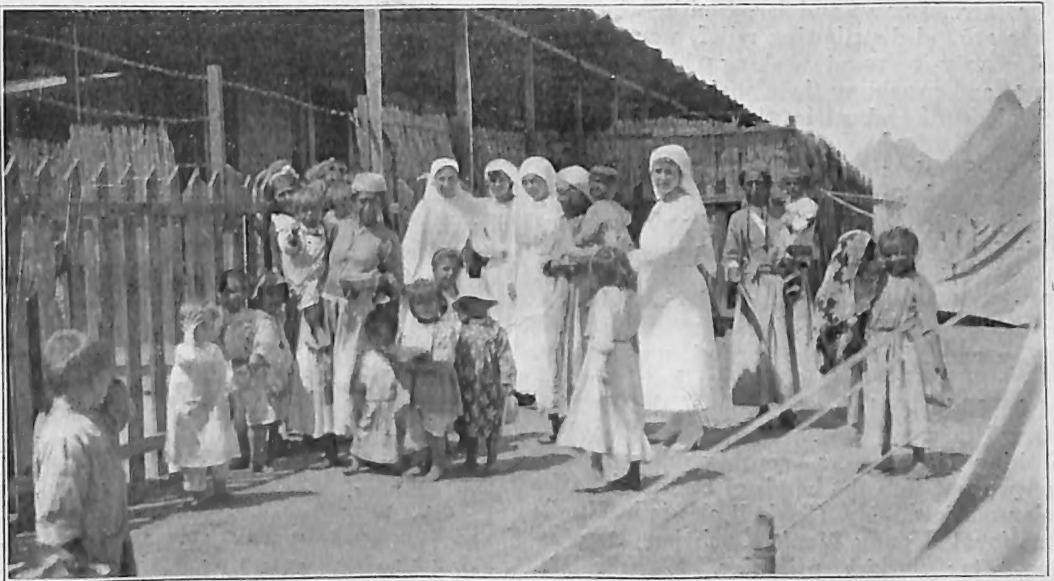
WORK CONDITIONS.

Correspondence with the missionaries has been largely cut off, except with Constantinople. Evidently the censors have decided not to allow many communications to go from the American Board to individual missionaries in the interior of the country and but very few to come out. Nevertheless, through Mr. Peet's correspondence from Constantinople and the kindness of those who have sent in copies of communications received from their friends in Turkey, the Board has kept

of the college and friends of the work in Turkey, and are but an earnest of what may be expected in the years to come.

The stations were all occupied up to May, when the local officials came down upon the Marsovan station and, with only slight warning, deported all the members of the station to Constantinople. At the same time the missionaries in Sivas, except Miss Graffam and Miss Fowle, were sent to Constantinople under guard. In the meantime the Government took possession of all the buildings, including the missionary houses in Marsovan; of all the school buildings, everything except the missionary residences in Sivas; and of all the school buildings and hospital buildings in Sivas, although the missionaries in Talas were not deported. After long endeavour at Constantinople, Mr. and Mrs. Getchell, Miss Willard and Miss Gage were allowed to return to Marsovan, where at last report they were living in their own houses, though the government still held possession of all the school and hospital buildings.

During the year there has been marked evidence of



Port Said—A Camp Scene (Nurses in White).

pretty closely in touch with the missionaries throughout the country.

The principal line of work that has absorbed the attention of the missionaries at their various stations has been looking after refugees, caring for destitute children, and holding the work together. Occasionally surprising information comes of large audiences and crowded schools. The report from Smyrna, where President MacLachlan has just completed twenty-five years of service in the International College, shows that the college has had one of the most rewarding and encouraging years in its history. The attendance has been only a little more than half the regular number, since it was impossible for pupils from far away to attend the college; and yet the progress made by the two hundred and more students, their readiness to listen to Christian teaching, the eagerness on the part of many non-Christians to study and understand Christian truth, have brought inspiration and cheer to all friends

disintegration of Islam as a centralised religion. The dissatisfaction in Turkey itself among Mohammedans has been widespread. Probably less than one-quarter of the Moslems of Turkey are in sympathy with the acts of the administration in the treatment of its Christian subjects and in the attempt to precipitate a holy war. The failure of the call for a holy war has demonstrated the lack of unity in Mohammedanism, and the recent revolt of the Shereef of Mecca against the Sultan of Turkey, and his claims to the caliphate, taken together with the capture of the holy places by the shereef and his party, and the setting up of an independent government, both religious and political, have been a severe blow to the Turkish Mohammedans, who have counted upon their Sultan as the successor to Mohammed. It is impossible at this writing to say whereunto this will lead, but it has certainly demonstrated the lack of unity and cohesion in the Mohammedan body, and is a suggestion to us as a mission organisation of what we may

expect in the future by way of opening new doors of approach to the great Mohammedan world and especially to the Mohammedans in Turkey.

IN RUSSIA.

The turn of events in Eastern Turkey has brought four of the American Board stations within the bounds of the Russian empire.—Van, Erzroom, Trebizon, and Bitlis. When these stations, with the exception of the last named, were taken by the Russian forces, Americans were on the ground. They received the most kindly and sympathetic treatment from the Russian officials, and were able in every instance to render valuable service in bringing the officials into sympathetic relations with the populations and in allaying the fear of the Mohammedans that the Russians would maltreat them. Relief funds were put into the hands of the missionaries to provide for the Armenian sufferers, and in the case of Van, after the Russian occupation had been thoroughly re-established, the Armenian refugees who had fled north and east began to return; and the missionaries, Dr. Macallum, Mr. Gracey, and Dr. Smith, who were there upon the ground distributing relief, were able to aid most effectively in re-establishing them in their desolate homes, and providing them with food and seed to sow and implements and cattle with which to till the soil.

Mr. and Mrs. Stapleton remained in Erzroom some two months after the Russian occupation, when they came home with their children. Mr. Stapleton plans to return this fall and spend the winter there. Mr. and Mrs. Crawford have remained in Trebizon. Dr. Raynolds, Mr. and Mrs. Yarrow, and Mr. and Mrs. Maynard are back at Tiflis, planning to return to their stations of Van and Bitlis at the earliest opportunity.

One of the most encouraging features has been the cordiality, friendship, and co-operation of the Russian officials, both military and civil. To aid the Armenians in re-establishing their homes, considerable sums of money have been put into the hands of the missionaries by the Russian officials. Mr. Goodsell also is in Russia under the national Young Men's Christian Association, looking after Turkish prisoners. After Mr. Stapleton returns, the American Board will have eleven missionaries in Russia. This number may soon be increased. With the missionaries on the ground and at their own stations that have been occupied by the American Board for from forty to seventy-five years, an attempt to expel them would constitute a diplomatic question which would need to be settled between Petrograd and Washington. We have no intimation that such questions will be raised, and the American Board is moving forward in faith that its work in that country will not be disturbed.

CASES OF STRIKING HEROISM.

There are many, many heroes in Turkey; in fact the whole country has seen repeated incidents of marvellous heroism on the part of the missionaries and the Armenian, Greek and Syrian Christians. These people themselves would be the last to recognise that they have done anything heroic. Their claim has been that they simply did their duty in the midst of excruciating circumstances. We will illustrate by pointing out a few cases. Take the instance of Miss Graffam, who secured permis-

sion from the Turkish officials at Sivas to go with the deported women and girls of that station as they were sent on their way across Turkey, down toward Northern Syria and Arabia. She went with this large group of refugees, shared with them their sorrows, privations and perils, and was instrumental in alleviating much of their suffering until at Malatia, after many days' journey, she was sent back by Turkish authorities to her home in Sivas. The story of her experience reads like a romance, full of peril and heroism.

Another case is that of Miss Willard and Miss Gage, who went with their girls also sent into banishment, following them as far as Sivas; and there, after a long delay and much pleading, they secured permission from the governor to take them back to Marsovan, where they were kept under the guardianship of the missionaries for many months, until the government in May finally deported the entire mission station to Constantinople. Miss Willard and Miss Gage were not willing to leave these girls alone, and after long waiting and much effort in Constantinople, seconded by the American Embassy, they, with Mr. and Mrs. Getchell, were allowed to return to Marsovan, where these four are to-day, looking after the interests of the girls' school and doing what they can to alleviate the suffering of that stricken city.

Miss Vaughan went up to Hadjin, after her colleague and associate, Miss Cold, returned to America upon furlough, and has been there now alone for the greater part of a year. In all of the communications which have come from her, she has spoken of herself as well, as having a large number of women and children under her care, as receiving the kindest treatment at the hands of the Turkish officials, and especially and constantly urging that no effort whatever be put forth on the part of the American Board or the American Embassy to take her out of Hadjin. She repeatedly says she is where God placed her, and where He is using her and where she wishes to remain until her task is done.

To sum it up, we can but refer to an address given by Ambassador Morganthau soon after his return to this country. He was speaking in the city of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., when a voice from the audience asked him how about the missionaries in Turkey. One who heard him said that he immediately lowered his voice, and in deep solemnity said, "When the story of the heroes and heroines of this war is written up, as it surely will be, there will be a long list of saints, and at the head of the list will stand the missionaries who have remained in Turkey during these terrible conditions and have given themselves and their lives to the cause they serve."

A friend has most kindly given us for sale the following articles:—A beautiful Chinese skirt handsomely embroidered; a fine white Shetland shawl; three lace collars; one lace scarf. If any readers would care to see these with a view to purchase one or more, we shall be pleased to send them for inspection, the money realised to go to the fund.

It may interest those of our readers who contemplate sending gifts of cigarettes to our brave soldiers and sailors on active service to hear that an Armenian friend of our work, Mr. Leon Tashjian, can supply them very reasonably, and pack and forward them direct. On any orders received mentioning "The Friend of Armenia," Mr. Tashjian is kindly allowing 5 per cent. of the takings as a gift to our Funds. All information from Mr. L. Tashjian, 124, High Street, Notting Hill Gate, London, W. Please mention "The Friend of Armenia."

PORT SAID REFUGEE CAMP.

From cheerful letters received from Miss Cunningham and Mr. Marshall Fox, we gather that conditions at the camp continue to be very satisfactory. Unfortunately a report of the work, written specially for the "Friend of



Miss Cunningham, one of the Friends of Armenia Representatives at Port Said.

Armenia," went down in the "Arabia," but the following extracts from letters will be of interest, and the pictures of the camp life will speak for themselves:—

Port Said, November 5th, 1916.

.....In camp all flourishes with regard to the industries—how I should like you to see this work! We keep on beating the previous records with regard to sales. Last week I took over £25 in one day in our little shop. Mr. Fox has made estimates with regard to our sales, and he will send them to you. Our shop taking for October came to something under £200. This of course includes all sales, combs, native material, crochet, etc., but a good proportion is F. of A. rugs and handkerchiefs. I cannot now supply enough rugs to meet the demands. 5

Mrs. Somey, the American camp district visitor, is getting a store-place put up; when that is finished I am

going to give over to her some of the clothing I have now left over from the last distribution, also some few boxes of the milk, and she will dispose of it in the best way possible, and I shall keep a little store of it, just for the worst needs

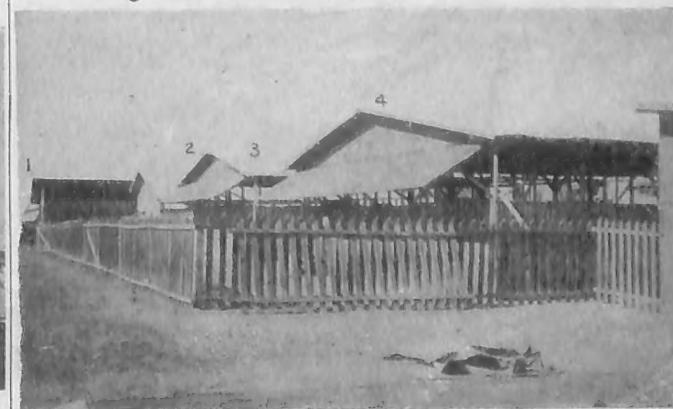


The Friends of Armenia "Shop" at Port Said.

of my own workers, F. of A. and others I come in contact with. I am so thankful we are reaching out to these very poor and neglected ones in the camp, as I have felt all along there were many there who were receiving far too little, and who are really in the most abject state of poverty and misery—some even ashamed to tell of their needs in the way of clothing, etc., having been used to a much better state of things.....



A General View of the Armenian Refugees' Camp at Port Said.



Industrial Buildings, Port Said Camp.

November 26th, 1916.

.....The bales of clothing are always so beautifully packed—(This is done at the warehouse of the Friends War Victims' Relief Committee.—Ed.)—we just marvel about it sometimes, and feel that a special vote of thanks should be



Handkerchief Workers Busy at the Port Said Camp.

conveyed to the packers and those in charge of that department. All the garments are so clean and nice when they arrive at this end. All the clothing sent by the F. of A. has been far and away the best and most suitable that has reached our camp at any time to my knowledge—also the largest contributions from any one source. A contribution of money has now been raised in Egypt (part of it profit from the camp bakeries) to buy one warm garment for each woman, child and old person. These are now being cut out and made in the shirt department, and total up to something over 3,000. Flannelette is the chief of the material used, and I have been able to give out quite a substantial quantity of buttons, hooks and eyes from the F. of A. store of haberdashery that I was armed with in the early days, and which have been given out gradually as the needs have arisen.....I am delighted to hear that more shoes and milk are likely to come out.Our new workroom is almost completed and is



Army Shirt Workers, Port Said.

first rate.....Miss Kinney tells me they are having some very good services on Sundays, and that "Pastor" is giving some excellent addresses to his flock. The meetings are well attended and the little harmonium is a real blessing to them.



Friends of Armenia Staff, Port Said.

1 Miss Cunningham.
2 Mr. Marshall Fox.
3 Miss Frearson.
4 Mrs. Andreassian.

December 3rd, 1916.

.....That knitting yarn that came with the rug wool not long ago has done good service. It gave employment to 12 poor women for three months or so. They made about 180 pairs of warm socks, and received sixpence and threepence per pair for their labours. I gave 50 pairs to the first batch of refugee soldiers going with the French to be fully trained. These left last week, and the French officer in charge came and thanked me for the socks and seemed most grateful.

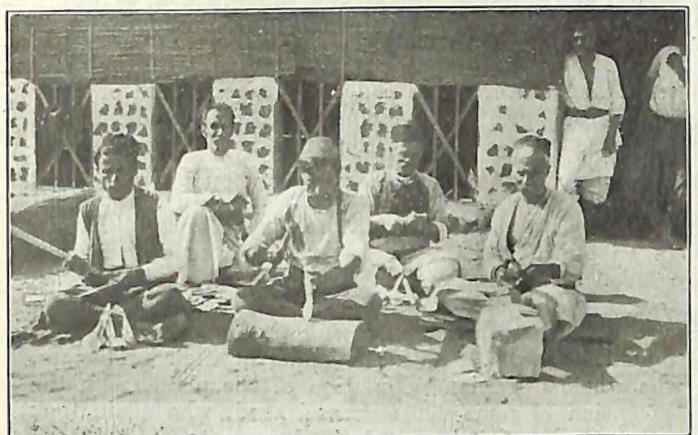
December 5th.

We shall occupy the new room this week, in fact the rugs are down and bags of the rug-wool laid all round the room as seats for the girls—they like this much, and it is a convenient way of storing the wool not needed for immediate use. Mrs. Andreassian and my other helpers assisted in this yesterday, and they could scarcely keep from laughing the whole time, they were so pleased with the new room, the new matting, the pleasant position



Rug-making in Progress at the Port Said camp.

facing the canal, and the little windows facing the passing ships, etc., and the railway on the other side—all looks so bright and pleasant, and is, as Mr. Hague says, "the pleasantest room in the camp."



Men making Spoons.

December 10th.

.....I now have both rug rooms well filled with women, nearly all of them old, but able to do this simple, easy work. They much appreciate having the sacks of wool, not in use, arranged as cushions for them to lean against;—while the handkerchief girls sit on more of these as "divans." This really adds much to the comfort of our workers, and one feels that this wool "waste," of which we have had such quantities, has been anything but waste to us. I have 8 women working at the largest sized rug (36 x 66), the Persian one, so I may be able to meet the demands for these in time.



Little School Children.

The following is an extract from a letter to Mrs. Hickson from Dr. Rendel Harris, a member of Executive Committee of Friends of Armenia:—

Port Said,

December 12th.

.....You will perhaps like to know that I visited yesterday the camp of Armenian refugees on the Suez Canal, and had a good sight of all the many and varied interests that are there being developed. I do not think it would be possible to have made a better organisation of

a crowd of miserable people, who now seem to be for the most part very happy in their new surroundings. The workshops and stores belonging to the Friends of Armenia are in fine order, and you have some excellent representatives. I found my old friend, Miss Frearson, of Aintab, on the camp-ground and heard from her many moving stories of the atrocities connected with the deportations in Asia Minor—a horrible record indeed.I have been staying with Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Fox at Port Said. Mr. Fox is a splendid organiser. Under his management the camp will pass out of the region of pure charity. Already they supply the military canteens with a quantity of baked things, which appear to be very well prepared. I tried some of them myself with good results.

Output of Industries in the Camp to end of November.

FRIENDS OF ARMENIA INDUSTRIES (Demand exceeds supply)

Needle-lace handkerchiefs	...	...	...	10,647
Wool rugs	...	...	...	351

ADMINISTRATION INDUSTRIES also under Mr. Marshall Fox.

Army shirts	...	...	...	23,500
Fly nets; horse nets	...	...	...	100
" " For Red Cross	...	...	...	874
" " Various	...	...	...	206
Crochet department (value)	...	...	...	£368
Cotton cloth (metres)	...	...	...	5,859
Wooden combs, spoons and forks	...	...	...	112,809
Bone and ivory combs	...	...	...	2,333

A highly important Blue-book was published in December on the treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, 1915-16. It consists of documents presented to Viscount Grey by Viscount Bryce, with a preface by the latter, in the course of which he says:—

European travellers have often commended the honesty and the kindness of the Turkish peasantry, and our soldiers have said that they are fair fighters. Against them I have nothing to say, and I will even add that I have known individual Turkish officials who impressed me as men of honesty and goodwill. But the record of the rulers of Turkey for the last two or three centuries, from the Sultan on his throne down to the district Mutessarif, is, taken as a whole, an almost unbroken record of corruption, of injustice, of an oppression which often rises into hideous cruelty.

The horrible outrages of which the Blue-book gives details were doubtless planned by the Turkish Government; but Germany and Austria-Hungary have still a heavy burden of responsibility for what happened.

We think many of our readers will be glad to know that this book under the title of "Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire," has been brought out, at the price of 3s., by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, Warwick Square, London, E.C., and all wishing for detailed information as to the condition of Armenia and the Armenians (especially the refugees) should send for a copy.

ERRATUM.—Column 3, page 22, of August magazine. Collection taken in Dr. Dill's Church, the word "Ballymena" should read "Ballymoney."

RELIEF REPORT

FROM URUMIA.

Since the West Persia Mission has had no detailed report of the relief work done in Urumia since the refugees left our yards after five months of confinement in May of last year, it has seemed to me that that time would be the proper point at which to begin this report. I have consequently made extracts from the reports from that time, including considerable portions of reports prepared by Mr. Labaree, in order to give a comprehensive view of the work.

At the beginning of June 1915, when the people emerged from our premises emaciated from sickness and malnutrition, and crushed by the blow that had befallen them, they were confronted by a seemingly hopeless situation. Practically all of their household furnishings and food supplies had been plundered; the same was true of their domestic animals, on which they depend in large measure for their subsistence; their houses were without any doors and windows, and probably a full third of them had been demolished. They were in terror about going back to their villages; they feared their Moslem neighbours who had despoiled them of their property, outraged their wives and daughters, and killed many of their relatives. They feared, too, lest the Russian troops might again withdraw and leave them to the mercy of their enemies; and they were anxious lest the missionaries who had sheltered them for the previous months, might forget them when they were out of sight. Everything tended to make them cling to the Mission compounds of their vicinity. To permit them to do this was, of course, out of the question. Our efforts to scatter them to their village homes formed one of the most painful phases of our relief work. The people had to go; but as long as they received their bread from our yards they would not, and so we had no choice but to cut off the food supply, after giving each family sufficient flour to support them a week. At the same time, with the help of the newly-arrived Russian Consul, pressure was brought to bear upon the landlords of the Christian villages to support their tenants until harvest. Some of them could not, because they themselves had been plundered; others would not in spite of Consular pressure, and others promised to give the needed assistance, but delayed it from day to day with all the ingenuity of excuse for which the Orient is notorious. The result was that our yards were thronged daily with hundreds of people clamouring for food. To give way would have nullified all our efforts to get the people on their own feet; and only when it was absolutely clear that nothing could be gotten from the landlords of any one village did we assume any degree of support for the people of the village. Little by little progress was made, and although the villagers were wretchedly miserable, the approaching harvest made subsistence by their own efforts possible, and virtually all food distribution ceased for a period of three months.

There was another form of relief, however, that was imperative. In the vast majority of villages there was not a spade to use in repairing their mud houses, in ridding their vineyards of weeds or in burying their dead, and there was not a scythe or sickle with which to reap their harvests. The best and surest way to help the people was to give them these implements, and so for upwards of a month we subsidised all the blacksmiths

of the city in our endeavour to get these implements in time for the harvest. When we closed this department of our relief work we had distributed 2,661 scythes and sickles and 1,129 spades, at a cost of 18909.90 krans.

By the beginning of August 1915, the situation was considerably more hopeful. The people, with Consular help, had succeeded in collecting a good deal of their plundered property, including bedding, household utensils, and a few cattle; the harvest was good, although the acreage was below the average, and the promise of vineyards was excellent. Then fell another blow what seemed an explicable providence. Events in another sector of the war necessitated orders for a sudden withdrawal of the Russian troops, and the evacuation was actually carried out with the exception of a small force which remained with the Consul on the hills outside the city. With the going of their protectors, the whole Christian population of the plain, with the exception of some 200 sick and aged, who again took refuge in the Mission yards, fled, some to the northern end of the plain, but many to Salmas and Khoy, and even Julfa, and a few to Tabriz. Fortunately it was summer time, but even so the misery was intense, and cholera and want and hardship claimed many victims in those few weeks. Worse still—much that the people had reclaimed of their stolen property, and gathered from their fields was taken once more by their Moslem neighbours; and so after a period varying from a few days to more than a month of miserable hardship and uncertainty, the poor Syrians and Armenians returned to their twice plundered homes. Very little relief, however, was given during the next few weeks, for from their fields and vineyards the Christians could still secure much in the way of food.

At this time we calculated that about ten or fifteen thousand of the Christian inhabitants would have to be supported during the winter months, and we were making our plans accordingly, when a new and overwhelming burden descended upon us. For months the Syrians of Kurdistan had been holding their own in the mountain fastnesses, hoping for succour from the Russians. When this failed, and their enemies increased on every hand, they had to flee; many, many perished in the attempt. Some thirty thousand of them arrived in Salmas and neighbourhood in almost absolute destitution. A few succeeded in bringing a part of their sheep, but most came with nothing, half naked, and without any means of livelihood. This army of wretchedness was halted by the authorities on the plain of Salmas and the hills surrounding it until their location should be determined upon. Mr. McDowell, of our relief committee, who has had years of experience among them, left at once for Salmas, and grappled with the various problems of their immediate relief. But for the assistance given by our Committee there hundreds of them would have perished with hunger. As it was cholera, typhoid and pneumonia did their worst among a people wasted by hardship, unprotected from the cold, and without shelter. Shortly the stream of suffering humanity began to pour across the pass that separated Salmas from Urumia plain, and to scatter themselves in the villages of this section. A few weeks before we had been wondering how the inhabitants

half-ruined villages: but they made room for nearly sixteen thousand refugees from other districts. For example, the village of Gogtapa has doubled its population, having received as many of these guests as it has inhabitants of its own.

About the middle of October we began to take steps for our winter's relief work. The first thing was to buy up all supplies of wheat that we could secure while the price was low—the lowest in years, for the purchasers were few, and the owners were anxious to turn their crops into cash before any more untoward event might transpire. The wheat thus secured was stored in different parts of the plain, accessible as distributing centres. The doing of this required quite a force of reliable men who could act as wheat buyers and weighers.

The next step was to get accurate lists of the actually destitute in every village. This was no easy task, for many felt themselves entitled to assistance who were not wholly destitute, and to discover who were really in want among the hundreds of poverty stricken plundered inhabitants of each village required both tact and firmness. The task was made doubly hard by the constant stream of new arrivals from Salmas. On the basis of these lists, tickets were issued for bedding and food—the two most crying needs.

Our wheat distribution had to be of the most economical nature. We issued what was supposed to be a two months' supply at one time, giving a Russian pood and a half per capita for this period, that is fifty-two pounds. To widows and orphans and to the newcomers from the mountains we gave flour instead of wheat, the actual cost of this assistance in food at current prices being two and a half shahis per day to a person or about a cent and a quarter. Even with this small gratuity, the total amount of wheat and flour given was 40,000 poods, or about 1,400,000lbs. costing about the same as the quilts, that is about 18,000 tomans.

Up to the end of December this was all that we could do and it met the most desperate need. The gift to individuals was small, but the aggregate was large; and our funds were overdrawn, though we had on hand stores of wheat, the value of which would more than cover the deficit. Our relief work consequently stopped automatically.

About the same time, however, the Russian Consul here received funds from the Relief Committee of the Caucasus, which he decided to distribute through the agency of the various missions at work here, the Russian Orthodox, the Catholic, the Anglican, the Armenian and our own mission. Our Relief Committee, acting on behalf of the Mission, has in this manner received from the Consul and distributed for him 35,500 roubles in cash.

In the winter months the Consul received large supplies of clothing from Russia, and we have distributed for him over 7,500 garments and quilts. We have appreciated the confidence thus placed in us by the Consul of another government.

Some time in February we were rejoiced to hear of the arrival of generous sums of money from the newly-organised Armenian and Syrian Relief Committee. Inasmuch as the Consul was still continuing to receive funds which were supplying the more pressing necessities of the people, we determined to turn our attention to a new and entirely distinct form of relief work. Next in

importance to supplying food for the present wants, was the problem of increasing the food supply of the future. On account of the fear and uncertainty, and generally demoralised condition of the country that prevailed last fall, very little grain of any kind had been planted. Even if the conditions had been normal in other respects, very few cattle of any kind had been left in the hands of the Christian population with which to till the soil. This failure to plant, not only on this plain, but also in the adjoining districts, was and is a serious menace for the harvest this fall. The wheat which we had bought last fall for four or five tomans per 10 poods had doubled in price, and seemed likely to go higher. (Some few loads were sold shortly before the harvest for thirteen tomans.) The Committee were therefore unanimous that the best use that we could make of the money sent us was to provide for seed sowing last spring. This would serve two great purposes: (1) give a means of livelihood to a large element of the community, and (2) tend to keep down the price of grain, which would be an incalculable benefit to all.

We at once set to work, buying all the supplies of seed we could find, including wheat, barley, rice, millet, potatoes, beans and a kind of peas much used for food in this country. The amount of such seed procurable in this neighbourhood was small, and it was very expensive, so that we had to draw our supplies from a distance.

The seed was given out with great care. Seventeen overseers were appointed to superintend the sowing in different sections. These are responsible to us to see that the seed is actually put into the ground, not eaten, and re-imbursement of the Committee for its seed at the harvest time. Next winter this wheat will do relief work a second time as food. We distributed to over 1,500 persons about 9,000 poods (something more than 5,500 bushels) of seed, from a grant of a few pounds of beans and potatoes to those who could spade up their little gardens, to the allotment of several bushels to the larger farmers.

In the late spring we were compelled to make some food distribution. The Russian Consulate is now receiving money for refugees from Turkey only, while there are many in this plain who are equally destitute. These have no source of help but ourselves, and to them we ministered, by giving a pood of wheat per head to the most needy.

One other matter requires notice. In the change of fortune which war always brings, many of the Kurdish and Sunni villages have suffered all the horrors which the Christians had to endure last year. Last January several hundred helpless women and children from these villages drifted to the city and crowded together in the Sunni mosque, and were in a condition of absolute destitution. To these we ministered for a couple of weeks by a daily dole of bread. Later, as the word went out to the villages, the beneficiaries rose rapidly to over 1,300, and we found that we must discontinue the work; so we made a grant of flour to each family and stopped further distribution. Again in May and June the Kurdish villagers who surrendered and crowded down into the villages near the city of Urumia, have been very destitute, and we have given a small allowance of about twenty pounds of wheat per head to some 2,434 persons and they have been most grateful. We

have also supplied a few of these Kurds, the poorest, with sickles, and in this way several families have been able to provide for themselves through the harvest and earn a little towards their winter supply of food. The amount expended in this way was not very great; but it has been published abroad, and has won for us the gratitude of the Moslem population and the resentment of many Christians. We have, however, felt that it has been worth while to demonstrate to both hostile Moslems and narrow-minded Christians the true spirit of Christ.

We received generous gifts for our relief work from other sources than our own American Committee. Among the donors were the Lord Mayor's Committee of London, his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bible Lands Missions' Aid Society, the Friends of Armenia and the women of the Foreign Mission Board at Philadelphia.

During the months of May, June and July we have distributed 1,900 scythes and sickles, 654 spades, and 31 ploughs in Urumia alone. We have also distributed 11,969 poods of wheat and flour during the same time to 12,275 Syrians, 1,515 Armenians and 2,434 Kurds.

We have already authorised the making of 5,000 quilts, but may have to increase this number, and part of the material has already been purchased. We have also authorised an expenditure of 3,000 tomans for simple garments to be prepared before the winter, or the goods distributed to be made into garments in the homes.

One line of relief work that it seems must have great value in conserving the resources in this region, in increasing the food supply and in providing work for many poor labourers, has been the loaning of money on vineyards. Mr. Allen has carried out this venture for the Relief Committee and 14,000 tomans have been loaned to 650 families; 1,400 acres of vineyard was spaded and work provided for 70,000 days of labour.

The commercial value of this property, which has been cared for with relief funds, at a very low estimate—for all property is almost valueless now—could not be placed lower than 210,000 tomans. The annual crop for export, aside from the grapes used for vinegar, wine, molasses and for the family consumption, would average 3,024,000 lbs. and would be valued at 84,000 tomans. This, we believe, has meant much blessing to the whole community, Moslem as well as Christain.

We are not now distributing anything, but daily unfortunate appeals come to us from pastors and other reliable friends about a number of widows and orphans, as well as some blind, crippled and sick, who are entirely destitute. We shall soon have to begin to help some of them.

We hope that His Imperial Majesty's Government will still help the mountaineers, but we cannot forecast how long this assistance will be continued; and it may be that, without warning, this needy crowd of refugees will be thrust upon us without the slightest hope of help from anyone else. The indications pointing to an early return of these mountaineers to their homes have all proved disappointing, and those who have moved up out of Salmas have returned, and they, as well as the mountaineers in Urumia, may all be expected to stay on this side of the border until next spring. This will make their care a little easier, but it is a disappointment that they could not go this summer, for the sooner they get settled the sooner will their homes be repaired and comfortable again, and the sooner will they be able to support themselves.

This plant being provided, \$25 per child would be sufficient to meet the annual expense for food, clothes and books.

It should be noted that there is no other institution for the care of Syrian orphans, and if this institution is properly equipped, there would be no need for any other.

As soon as the way is open and the country over the border safe, these 30,000 mountaineers will return to absolutely ruined homes and desolated country. For them will be needed cattle, sheep, seed and almost everything else. How many of these burdens we shall carry depends upon the generosity of our friends. To get them started as soon as possible is not only kindness to them, but also a lessening of the load we shall have to carry later.

It is entirely impossible to estimate the numbers of those who will be entirely or partially dependent during the coming winter. Perhaps 7,000 plain Christians will be partly dependent and have to be provided for a period of three or four months. Comparatively few will have to be provided for through the year. Over 16,000 from outside districts have had little opportunity to make provision for the winter's needs and, if they do not receive Russian aid, will be dependent on us. Jews from the region about here, also a part of the flotsam and jetsam of war, are now refugees in the city and surrounding villages to the number of 3,000, and more than half of them are destitute.

Undoubtedly there will be intense poverty this fall and winter, and prices for all foodstuffs will be very high. It is a situation that gives us grave concern.

H. H. PACKARD, Chairman,
Urumia, Persia. American Relief Committee.

The following has been received by Mr. Hodgkin, who has returned to England after visiting the relief centres in the Caucasus, Van and Persia, as a member of the Armenian Refugees' (Lord Mayor's) Fund party:—

The American Relief Committee in Persia hereby calls attention to the need for an orphanage for destitute Syrian children in Persia. The recent massacres, together with famine and the plague, have left many hundred children without parents, and especially without fathers. In many cases these little ones are not only without parents, but also without kindred, and many must perish from want unless provision is made for their need. This Committee therefore recommends that steps be taken to meet this need. This can be done most efficiently and economically by enlarging and supporting an already existing institution, the American Orphanage in Urumia. This institution was established by a special committee in America, and is under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Pflammer and Miss Bridge, who are American citizens. Their management of this work has commended itself to the missionaries in Urumia, for self-sacrificing devotion to the welfare of the children, and also for its practicality and efficiency. It has been, however, hampered in its work by lack of funds, and is now caring for only some sixty orphans. In the judgement of the Committee this number ought to be increased to 500. To accomplish this \$75,000 would be required. This would provide suitable buildings and furnish them, make possible the purchase of a few acres of ground, some cows and sheep and also tools for agricultural and industrial purposes—and would leave a sum for a small endowment to meet current executive expenses.

The plant being provided, \$25 per child would be sufficient to meet the annual expense for food, clothes and books.

It should be noted that there is no other institution for the care of Syrian orphans, and if this institution is properly equipped, there would be no need for any other.

AN APPEAL FOR THE CAUCASUS REFUGEES.

148, Mountcollyer Street,
Belfast, Ireland,
November 6th, 1916.

Dear Miss Hickson,

Just before returning to my work in the Caucasus I would like to thank you and all the members of your Committee for the very valuable financial assistance that you gave to us for our relief work among the Armenians and Syrians in the Caucasus. It makes one's heart bleed to think of what they have and are now suffering. This, to my mind, is one of the greatest tragedies in history, played on a stage whose length is from Constantinople to the Arabian Desert and its breadth from the Great Sea (Mediterranean) to the Caucasian Mountains, covering a period of 600 years. At each period, when the screen is lowered, it is only to cover up a scene more terrible and diabolical than its predecessors. A people forced to the death and to things worse than death by a cruel and relentless Government and that upon its own subjects, hated and persecuted because they are Christians. And so, year after year, a noble band of these martyrs go to the Christ whom they loved and whom they would not deny in their death.

At the present moment we are confronted with huge problems of how best to relieve and mitigate the sufferings of thousands of these poor people up and down the Caucasus. Winter is coming with all its bitterness to a people who are poorly nourished and practically destitute of clothing, and who have always lived in a temperate zone; your imagination can fill in the details. I would beseech you that you will once again come to our aid in the re-clothing of these people, and that you will be enabled to send us substantial sums to begin orphanages on a large scale and so save the little ones of a stricken race.

The work of repatriation will have to begin in the coming spring, and sums of money will be required that we are almost afraid to mention. Our people are grateful for all that is done for them, and at times, when words fail them, they look up into your eyes with tears in their own and a look that speaks louder than any words spoken.

One of my great joys is the fact that I have been able to serve these people in a small way these past twelve years. We ask your prayers that we may be sustained in our labours for them. Our good and able Dr. Wilson laid down his life in Tabriz, Persia, on July 2nd, by that fell disease typhus, contracted in those labours of love for these poor Armenian and Syrian refugees, working with such vigour and enthusiasm that undermined his health with such fatal results. "Greater love hath no man than this, that he layeth down his life for his friends." And so we mourn the loss of a beloved colleague on our Committee. And our Armenian and Syrian people mourn for

one who has been their teacher, counsellor and friend. May the dear Lord comfort and sustain those dear ones he has left behind.

With many thanks for all your kindness and courtesy to me and for the sustained interest in the cause that is so dear to our hearts—alleviating the sufferings of a distressed and stricken people,

Yours very sincerely,
GEORGE F. GRACEY.

Letter from Mr. Gracey to Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P.

(Chairman of the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund Committee.)

Tiflis, Hotel Orient, December 14th 1916.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Backhouse and I are planning to leave here and make a tour through the Eriwan and Alexandropol fields.

We had hoped to be able to visit Kars, but that now seems impossible.

We hope to begin work on behalf of your Committee on lines similar to what the members of our Committee are now doing, that is, starting industrial branches of work, whereby the people can earn some money for their partial support. Mr. Yarrow, Maynard, and Dr. Reynolds are now employing over 1,000 women in washing, spinning wool and knitting it into socks for distribution.

In talking matters over with Mr. Backhouse we are hoping that he will begin weaving native cotton cloth. We can get the cotton here. We would then employ carpenters to make the looms, women to spin, and men and women to weave into cloth, then other women to cut it into garments for underwear and have others for the sewing. In

this way we could employ quite a number of refugees, and this kind of relief has a good effect upon the people, developing their independence and raising their moral character: excellent results have accrued from this work in the Eriwan region.

We are also hoping that you will begin medical work in that region for the refugees, as the condition of the sick is very bad. If a patient goes into one of these Society Hospitals with one disease, he usually comes out with three. Dr. Aspland is still in Petrograd, and we could find nurses that have been trained in the American Mission, and perhaps he could bring one English nurse with him from Petrograd. From the information that I have received, this work is very, very necessary. However, as we are going down into the field we will inquire into this matter. I will try, as far as possible, to give all the assistance I can to Mr. Backhouse. It would have given me great pleasure to have worked with him as he requested,



Mr. George F. Gracey.

but our Committee at present have thought it better that I should remain with them, but will allow me to help your work, and they also will render all the assistance that they possibly can. However, this is only for the present, it may be that things may change in such a way that it will be possible in the future.



A Group of Refugee Children.

Over 15,000 new refugees have arrived in the Erivan region from Kharpoor, Kharmoos, and Khigi, whose wants will have to be attended to. We are planning to supply them with clothing, and large quantities of material has now, reached us from Moscow. We are planning to use the people in the cutting of this material up, and making garments for the refugees.

Conditions have somewhat changed in my absence, and till we get over the field, it is very difficult to say just what should be done. However, on our return, we will wire you fully as to conditions and our plan of work. I did not wish to wire you on the meagre information that I have got here.

With the compliments of the season,

Yours very sincerely,

G. F. GRACEY.



The same Children after being clothed and cared for the American Relief Commission.

TELEGRAMS RECEIVED FROM TIFLIS

By the Armenian Refugees' (Lord Mayor's) Committee.

TIFLIS, November 27th.

Americans at Erivan report thousands of new refugees arriving from Turkey after hiding a year in caves and suffering terrible privation. Great number of women and children in distress. Am considering starting industrial work at some place in Caucasus, possibly with help of Gracey and Catchpool.—BACKHOUSE.

TIFLIS (received at the beginning of December).

Price just returned from Lazistan. Reports clothing most urgent need. Recommends money recently sent to be spent on materials for one thousand women and children in Mels district. Shoes also very badly needed.—BACKHOUSE.

TIFLIS (received end of December).

Gracey and I leave to-night for Erivan, Igdir, Alexandropol, investigate conditions of refugees and ascertain where employment most needed.—BACKHOUSE.

FROM MR. GRACEY TO MISS HICKSON.

TIFLIS, January 11th, 1917.

Hickson, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

"Personal investigation proves acute distress among refugees. Suffering of widows and children intense, thousands of orphans require immediate help. War allowances reduced to half. Cases known of death by starvation—clothing twenty thousand new refugees, giving employment to two thousand women. Funds urgently needed for orphans."—GRACEY.

LATEST NEWS OF MISS SALMOND.

Miss Salmond, writing from Marash to a friend in America on September 4th (the latest news direct from her), says, "September has come in hot, and it has been hot so many weeks and one's strength is small, but more than the physical, we need to come into touch with our friends. How we long for them I cannot explain. I am sure you pray for us, and we do not forget you."

NEWS FROM ADANA.

Dr. Nesbitt Chambers, writing in September to Dr. Barton of the American Board, Boston, tells of an interview he had with a traveller lately returned to America from Turkey. He says:—

"He spent a night in Adana. Missionaries were well. The hospital, as we had heard, was in the hands of Dr. Haas, having been seized by the Government, and then returned as a Red Cross Hospital. He was not sure that supplies were provided by the Turkish Government. The Girls' Seminary had not been interfered with. Miss Davies had gone to Gozneh, presumably in connection with hospital work. Miss Webb and Miss Fischer he did not see.

"Some British prisoners from Kut-el-Amara were in Adana. Mr. Nathan, the Consul from Mersine was in Adana that day to make arrangements for their welfare. Dr. Haas expected to have some of them in the Hospital. He, Dr. Haas, was to see them and distribute money to them.

"Mrs. Christie and Mr. Nute were in Tarsus and well. I would judge that most of the professors were there still. The Turkish Military were in the main building of the College."

A TRIBUTE OF GRATITUDE TO LORD BRYCE.

It was a deeply touching and interesting ceremony that took place in London on the afternoon of November 30th, in the presence of a very few spectators. The occasion was the presentation of a *Kondak*, or Patriarchal Decree, from the venerable Catholicos of the Armenian Church, an old man weighed down with grief over the sorrows of his flock, to that veteran, staunch and well-tried friend of his nation, Viscount Bryce. The touching words of this *Kondak* are the outpourings of a stricken heart full to overflowing with gratitude which knows no bounds, and it was the express desire of the supreme pontiff that this precious document should be delivered in person by his representative, the Armenian Archbishop in Western Europe, his Beatitude Kevork Utudjian, whose headquarters are in Manchester.

The *Kondak*, which was prepared at Etchmiadzin as far back as April last, could only be conveyed to Manchester within the last two months. The work on it is purely Armenian, the script being in old Armenian characters dating back to the ancient versions of the Bible, which are the precious possessions of the great Armenian monastery, while the scroll is beautifully illuminated with designs of the same period. Altogether, the product is a typical reproduction of ancient Armenian Art. It was not possible to prepare and to despatch to so great a distance, and at such a time a suitable casket to hold so precious a document which was so full of meaning. The preparation of the casket was, therefore, left to the loyal and dutiful care of his flock in this country; and it has been suitably accomplished in an eminent degree by the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company, Ltd., of Regent Street, London. It is of solid silver on an ebonite stand, the column bearing on its side a shield having a correct representation in relief of the ancient Cathedral of Etchmiadzin, with the towering summit of Ararat in the background.

An ornamental silver plate on the ebonite stand bears the following inscription:—

FROM
THE CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS

TO
THE RIGHT HONORABLE VISCOUNT BRYCE, O.M.,
in gratitude for his noble and generous
services to the Armenian Nation,
April, 1916.

The Archbishop made a short address on the lines of the *Kondak*, expressing the terms of his mandate to deliver it in person, and adding his own blessings on the recipient. The President of the Association then read to Lord Bryce an English translation of the *Kondak*.

Lord Bryce made the following reply to the Archbishop, with the request that it might be communicated to His Holiness the Catholicos:—

YOUR BEATITUDE AND GENTLEMEN,

I am profoundly touched and highly honoured by the message of His Holiness the Catholicos, and thank him most sincerely for the kind words he has pronounced regarding my long connection with the cause of Armenia. Pray assure him of my gratitude and appreciation of what he has been pleased to say. It is now just 40 years since I visited the venerable monastery of Etchmiadzin at the foot of the snowy Ararat, a spot sacred to all Armenians, for it has been for many centuries the centre of their religious life. It was then I began to know and to wish to help the Armenian people. I had the honour of knowing one of his predecessors—the illustrious Catholicos Krimian

—whose nobility of character profoundly impressed those of us who saw him in England, and who is, I know, remembered with affection wherever the language of Haisdan is spoken. Though I have not been able to do for the Armenian Cause what I should have wished to do, what little I have done has been done with all my heart, for I have felt it a privilege as well as a duty to defend a cause which is that of Christianity and of freedom.

These last 40 years have been a time of inexpressible trial and suffering for the Armenians, and the last two years have been the most terrible of all. We did not think that the ruthless cruelties of Abdul Hamid could have been surpassed, but the Young Turkish Government has surpassed even Abdul Hamid. The record of the massacres and deportations which they have carried out and which you will find in a volume that is to appear in a few days, containing the evidence collected from eye-witnesses, is a record without parallel even in the blood-stained

annals of the East. And these crimes were perpetrated by a Government which is the honoured and trusted ally of two great civilised nations. Throughout these awful sufferings the Armenian people has once more shown that courage and loyalty to its Christian faith and its national traditions which have never failed during nine centuries of oppression and persecution. The Armenians of last year showed themselves worthy of the martyrs and heroes whose names shine with undying fame on the pages of Armenian history.

In transmitting to your revered Catholicos the expression of my gratitude for his message, may I ask you to say to him that, dark and terrible as these days have been, I can discern one ray of light. When the Allies conquer in this war, as we trust and believe that they will—and you know how resolute is their purpose—it will, I think, be impossible for them to leave the Turkish Government in possession of the



By the noted Dutch artist, Raemaekers, done especially for Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund. Artistic reproductions of this original drawing may be obtained at FRIEND OF ARMENIA Office, 47, Victoria Street, S.W., for framing, size 30 ins. by 22 ins., at 10/- 6d. each, and a limited number of Signed Proofs at £2 2s. 0d. each. Postcards 2d. each.

regions which they have drenched with Christian blood and from which they have tried to extirpate the most industrious, intelligent and progressive part of the population. Whether or not any Turkish Sultanate may be permitted to remain somewhere in Asia Minor, it surely cannot be permitted to rule either in Armenia or Cilicia. When the Unspeakable Turk has gone and a civilised administration has been set up in Armenia—an administration capable of giving security of life and property, of extending the blessings of liberty and peace to the inhabitants—I cannot doubt that the Armenian people will recover from its present calamities and show again that marvellous power of renewing its numbers and its strength which it has so often shown in time past. Your national life will not be lost. You are the race which is best fitted to restore prosperity to those countries devastated and plundered by so many conquerors.

Often have your English friends had to ask you to be patient—patient under oppressions which would have justified insurrection if insurrection could have had a prospect of success. But now I will venture to bid you not only to be patient, but also to hope for a brighter future. We join in the prayers which the Armenian Church and your Catholicos are offering that the fulfilment of this hope may not be long deferred.

With a few words of thanks from the President of the Association to Lord Bryce for the reception he had accorded them, the Archbishop and the deputation withdrew from what was a moving and touching ceremony.—*Ararat*, December, 1916.

“FRIENDS OF ARMENIA” IN IRELAND AND AUSTRALIA,

We would record our very great appreciation of the untiring efforts made on behalf of Armenia for many years, and especially since the war, of Mr. Joseph Madill, of Londonderry. Although a very busy man, with little time at his disposal, he has laboured unceasingly to raise funds, arrange lectures and meetings, and procure church collections for the different Armenian relief funds. During 1916 he has sent to us alone £142 0s. 6d., and we know that he has also helped other funds. Dr. F. J. Paul, Professor of Church History, Magee College, who has co-operated with Mr. Madill by lecturing, writes, “Mr. Joseph Madill has laboured zealously, without fee or reward, in the interests of the suffering Armenians, especially since the outbreak of the war. I cannot speak too highly of the devotion he has shown in raising funds for this cruelly persecuted people, and it has been a pleasure to me to assist him, so far as lay in my power in this most deserving object.”

Another untiring friend is Miss M. E. Searle, of Australia. For many years she has worked to arouse interest—meeting generally with a good deal of discouragement, but she has now been able to form a Council, which she has asked our Committee to allow her to call “Australian Friends of Armenia,” which the Committee is naturally most glad for her to do. Since 1910, Miss Searle has forwarded us over £350 collected by her. Good luck to her Council!

A PRAYER FOR ARMENIANS AND SYRIANS.

At the beginning of last year, when the various Christian denominations in this country decided to set apart a Sunday for collecting funds for distressed Armenians and Syrians, several inquiries were heard from Church of England clergymen regarding special prayers for such an occasion. The lack which was felt in this country has been made good in America. The Right Reverend Daniel S. Tuttle, D.D., Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, has quite recently authorised the use of the following beautiful and original prayer in the services and appeals on behalf of Armenian and Syrian Christians on Sunday, October 22nd, one of the days set apart for this purpose by the President's proclamation:

A Prayer for Those in Distress.

“O God, our Heavenly Father, who art unceasing in goodness and loving kindness to the sons of men, and of pitying mercy towards them that suffer, we commend to thy Almighty care and protection the afflicted peoples of the distant East, the Assyrians and Armenians and the Syrians living in Turkey and in the Russian Caucasus, in Persia and in Egypt. Relieve, we pray Thee, the distress and torture of the Christians in those border-lands. Assuage their grief. Supply their wants. Save them from massacre, destitution, famine and from the horrors of deportation; and the women and innocent children from the shameful perils of captivity. Incline the hearts of all the world to assist them to rebuild their ruined homes and to secure seed to sow and clothes to wear. May the good example of those who have kept the faith and died the martyr's death avail to strengthen them that remain to resist temptation and to stand the firmer for righteousness and truth. And, by Thy grace, may dutiful submission to Thy will abide with them, and a sweet spirit of resignation, and even of forgiveness, and may the days of their suffering be shortened, to Thine honour and glory, through the merits and mercies of Jesus Christ our Saviour.—Amen.”

ARMENIAN LEGENDS AND POEMS.

Under the title of *Armenian Legends and Poems* has just been published an attractive volume by Miss Zabelle C. Boyajian. It is an Art book in every sense of the term and is meant to be a testimonial to the “Undying Spirit of Armenia.” The British nation, that knows so little of Ancient and Modern Armenia, is here confronted with the solid facts of her history in culture, and the volume, which has an illuminating Introduction by Viscount Bryce, will have attained its object if it dispels in some measure the ignorance on Armenian history which prevails in this country. The originals of the illustrations, which are the work of Miss Boyajian, were exhibited during the first half of November in the Fine Arts Society's Galleries in Bond Street.

Copies may be obtained from the Friends of Armenia, price £1. 1s. 0d. All profits from the sale of the book go towards Armenian relief.

We have also for sale at 1/- each little book entitled “Reveries on Stormy Seas” by Khosrov, a Son of the East. The work is edited by an Armenian friend of our work, who has taken extracts from the Author's writings, and describes them as “Free—almost literal, translations from verse, and having neither rhyme nor metre.” The work is described as “A Stricken Heart's Soliloquy on a Devastated Home.” Proceeds for Armenian Relief.

MR. ASQUITH AND THE BISHOP OF LONDON ON THE ARMENIAN QUESTION.

One of the most striking references to Armenia by a great statesman was made by Mr. Asquith in his speech at the Guildhall Banquet on Lord Mayor's Day, November, 1916. He said:—

“Among the enslaved races who have suffered most from the Ottoman domination are the Armenians, the wholesale massacre of whom during the last two years has shocked the entire civilised and Christian world. In our own country, in Russia, and I believe even more in the United States of America, the incredible sufferings of this nation have aroused profound sympathy, and all three countries have raised large sums for their relief and their repatriation in the future. I need not say that *His Majesty's Government look with profound sympathy on these efforts*, and are resolved that after the war there shall be an era of liberty and redemption for this ancient people.” (Cheers.)

In his Presidential address to the Birmingham and Midland Institute on October 12th, 1916, the Bishop of London said:—

“It is difficult to select out of the horrors which have passed before our eyes one worse than another, but probably the most hellish thing done on earth in the last 500 years has been the attempted extermination of the Armenian race; even as described in the restrained pages of Lord Bryce, it has more tragedy than any battlefield, for there, at least, men die in the heat of battle for what they think a great cause, but here, in cold blood and with every circumstance of bestiality and lust, women and children were slowly done to death.”

In the Reply of the Allied Governments to President Wilson's Note, handed to the United States Ambassador in Paris on January 10th, 1917, the note constituting an “avowal of their views as to the terms upon which the war might be concluded,” the following lines occur. “... Is it necessary to recall the horrors that marked the invasion of Belgium and Serbia, the atrocious treatment undergone by the invaded countries, the massacre of hundreds of thousands of inoffensive Armenians, the barbarities inflicted upon the peoples of Syria...? The perpetration of such a catalogue of crimes regardless of the reprobation of mankind will surely explain to President Wilson the protest which the Allies here make.”

A CHRISTMAS SHIP FOR SYRIANS AND ARMENIANS.

America's Christmas ship, the Navy collier “Caesar,” left New York December 1st, with clothing and food-stuffs for Beirut, from which port relief will be distributed to Syrians and Armenians through the American Red Cross and U. S. Consuls and Missionaries. The ship carried 600,000 lbs. of rice, 200,000 lbs. of lima beans, 400,000 lbs. of crushed wheat, 2,100,000 lbs. of whole wheat, 500,000 lbs. of sugar, 1,000 cases of condensed milk for children and 10,000 barrels of flour. The cargo also contained sweaters, stockings and shawls by the thousand. All this generosity was the result of a special proclamation by President Wilson on behalf of Armenia and Syria, where in the latter country alone 100,000 people are on the verge of starvation.

Letter from Dr. Raynolds to Mrs. Cole, of the Friends of Armenia Executive Committee.

P.O. Box 23.
Ervan, Caucasus, Russia.
December 6th, 1916.

My dear Mrs. Cole,

Here we are living in the midst of our former neighbours and friends, 18,000 of them in this city alone and 200,000 of them in the province, but how different their condition from what it used to be. So many, many of the families we knew so well, rich and poor alike, now reduced to the number of a helpless widow and hungry children, with nothing to depend on but the meagre allowance from the Government, large in itself, but so spread out that each individual has scarcely enough to keep soul and body together, occupying the poorest rooms in the city, overcrowded at that, destitute of furniture, sleeping on the floor, often only earth, and with not enough covering to keep them from the cold.

We are running a shop for giving out wool to women to spin and knit into stockings, using the poorer wool for making bed covers, and so we are giving employment to more than a thousand women, but other thousands are clamouring for similar opportunity, and our funds at present do not permit further enlargement. Every day that I go to my office hundreds flock thither, whom we are obliged to turn empty away. We are asking for additional funds, but if all we ask is granted, it will not begin to meet the need.

We, i.e., the Yarrows, Maynards, and myself, are living very comfortably here. The climate and water are fine, and we can constantly look off to Ararat's double peaks, and the nearer prospect also is attractive.

G. C. RAYNOLDS.

The arrival at Constantinople of Dr. Elkus, the new United States Ambassador to Turkey, with his family, is reported in letters received at the American Board Rooms. A reception had been tendered him at Robert College, in which the American institution and missionaries participated. Dr. Elkus's reply to the speeches of welcome is said to have captivated his audience and to have called forth many expressions of satisfaction with the new appointment.

That life in Constantinople for the missionaries has its less happy aspects appears in the suggestion that as winter comes on and stocks of fuel and provisions become depleted, with few or no importations arriving, they realize that sooner or later the end will be reached. They are coming to have a fellow feeling for the inhabitants of besieged cities, and the stories of the experiences of peoples under such conditions have for them a more vivid interest.

Requests had come to the capital from Harpoot, Sivas, Aintab, Marash, Aleppo, Tarsus, Adana, Konia, Brousse, and Smyrna, calling for increased appropriations for relief work for the coming winter. All these places, with the possible exception of Sivas, are in financial communication with Constantinople through the banks. The prospect is of a hard and straining winter for the missionary force in Turkey; yet of an immense task to be met, to which they are settling themselves with courage and devotion.

—Missionary Herald (December).

NOTICE.

ALTHOUGH we still have in stock a few pre-war Embroideries, our Price List is now no guide to the work. At the present time we are practically sold out of Handkerchiefs at all prices, but we hope shortly to receive a consignment from Port Said. We were most unfortunate in losing a consignment of 100 dozen Handkerchiefs and 500 metres of Blue Native Material in the "Arabia." We ask the patience of our customers if we are not able to execute their orders for Handkerchiefs immediately; conditions are difficult now, and the demand for Handkerchiefs made by the Refugees in Egypt itself has been so great that our workers have not been able to send us over as many as they had hoped.

We have a good many Lace D'oyleys, but Lace by the yard is nearly sold out. It is hoped that the Refugees may soon be able to learn to make some Embroideries other than Handkerchiefs.

Books, Pamphlets, &c., connected with Armenia.

The Blackest Page of Modern History. Armenian Events of 1915. The Facts and the Responsibilities. By HERBERT ADAMS GIBBONS, Ph.D. New York and London: Putnam. 3s. 6d. net.

Shepard of Aintab (the Beloved Physician). By REV. FRED FIELD GOODSELL. The Story of a modern missionary hero; told by one who has intimate knowledge and high appreciation of his subject. John G. Hosmer (Agent of the American Board), 14, Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Round About Armenia. The record of a journey across the Balkans, through Turkey, The Caucasus and Persia, by E. A. BRAYLEY HODGETTS. With special large scale map. London: Sampson Low, Marston & Co., Ltd. 2s. net.

The Armenian Church. By ARCHDEACON DOWLING, with an introduction by the late BISHOP OF SALISBURY. Published by the S.P.C.K., Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C. Illustrated. Price 3s. 6d.

The Church of Armenia. Her History, Doctrine, Rule, Discipline, Liturgy, Literature, and Existing Condition. By MGR. MALACHIA ORMANIAN, translated by G. MARCAR GREGORY, V.D. 5s. net, postage 4d. Apply to the translator, 36, Gunterstone Road, West Kensington, London, W.

Raffi's Works. Samuel, 8s.; Davit Beg, 8s.; Kaitzer I and II, 12s.; Khent, Djalaleddin, 5s.; Khamsai Meliks, 5s.; Persia, 5s.; Khachakogh, 5s.; Salbi, 8s.; Tachkahajk, 3s.; Zahrumar, 5s. Apply—Mrs. Raffi, 32, Richmond Gardens, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

The People of Armenia. A lecture delivered in Paris by ARCHAG TCHOBANIAN, translated into English by G. Marcar Gregory. Published by J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London. 1s. 6d. net. Now ready. Copies in any number can also be had through the Assistant Secretary, Armenian United Association, 47A, Redcliffe Square, London, S.W.

The Treatment of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. Documents presented to Viscount Grey of Falloden, ex-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, with a Preface by LORD BRYCE. 3s. Hodder & Stoughton, Warwick Square, London, E.C.

Travel and Politics in Armenia. By NOEL BUXTON, M.P., and the REV. HAROLD BUXTON. With an introduction by VISCOUNT BRYCE, and a contribution on ARMENIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE, by ARAM RAFFI. Smith, Elder. 5s. net.

Armenian Legends and Poems. Illustrated and compiled by ZABELLE C. BOYAJIAN. Published by J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., Aldine House, Bedford Street, London, W.C. Price 21s. net.